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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 380. JUNE, 1938.

TRUTH. FREEDOM. FRIENDSHIP.

"One in the freedom of the truth"—S. LONGFELLOW.

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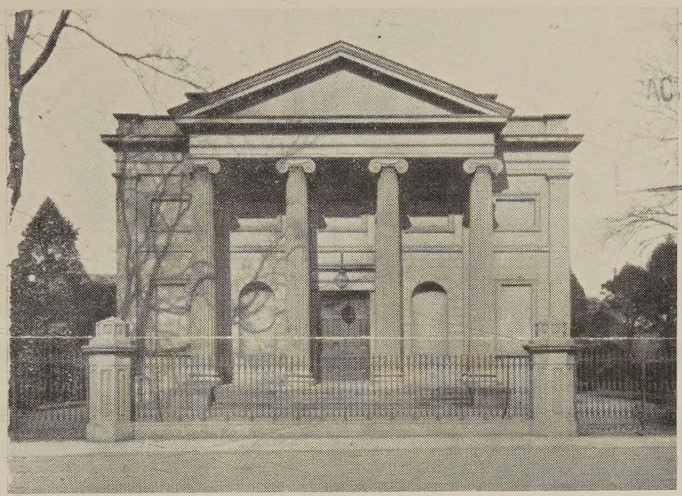

LI C UNIV... FOR THE MINISTRY Berkeley,

BANBRIDGE NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN MEETING HOUSE

NOTES AND NEWS.

The Sunday School Conference meets at Banbridge, on the first Saturday of June. The Conference is always the largest of our meetings. The address will be given by the Rev. Frederick Munford, B.A., B.L., Mountpottinger.

* * *

The Annual Meetings will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 21st and 22nd.

* * *

The recent meetings of the General Assembly in Leeds, remind us of the famous conference held there, some fifty-five years ago, when Dr. Martineau brought forward his scheme for organising the congregations in England as The English Presbyterian Church, (a title which might have been confused with the Presbyterian Church of England), and the organisation also of a Sustentation Fund. The scheme for the latter, which ultimately found acceptance was not precisely that of the Presbyterian Sustentation Funds in Scotland and England, but one for the augmentation of ministers' salaries, which has proven to be very useful and has done good work.

* * *

We observe that in most of the religious denominations an attempt is being made to deal with the problem created by the absurd diversity in ministerial salaries which has grown up in the course of time. While some have boldly placed all Ministers on an equality

others have made attempts to make an adjustment based on the undoubted fairness of giving an adequate minimum to all, combined with some reward to merit and labour. The latter system is probably the better. It encourages effort, while it secures that those who have often the hardest and most difficult tasks are not left to the poorest of rewards. It also secures the services of able men where they are most needed, whereas otherwise those Churches which most need capable Ministers are often compelled to take whomsoever will take them. The Presbyterian system, which years of experience have made perfect in so many ways, also provides for this partly through its Sustentation Fund and partly by the rule that the stipend is the Ministers.

* * *

The Non-Subscribing Church, which faces a continual problem in the supply of Ministers, might well give serious attention to this matter. Those who complain of the shortage of Ministers never seem to consider that there are reasons for it. Some of those reasons may be beyond our control, but others are not. In spite of every warning and the example of every other denomination where able laymen themselves have seen that some position of control must go with the responsibility of the charge of a Congregation, our Ministers have lately been reduced to the position which was long the cause of the greatest weakness in Congregationalism, and which that body has recently been forced to amend, giving to its Ministers the very position which, in effect, we have surrendered. Turning to the question of remuneration, our denominational statistics reveal another state of affairs which it would be more profitable to consider than the former question, but to which no attention has been given at all. Ministerial salaries appear to be not only amazingly diverse, but in cases are double and treble or even four times what they are in others. It is possible that any attempt at a more equitable state of affairs is beyond us, but there is much that could be done, and done promptly.

* * *

Some Congregations treat their Ministers generously. Good salaries are paid, often amounting to three-quarters of the income of the Church, and even when the Church is in debt and when the Minister himself neither concerns himself nor is expected to concern himself with the income. Other Congregations apparently pay less than half of their regular income to Ministers who do much to provide it, and calmly proceed to spend the remainder on improving their property or free entertainment. Not only is this the case, but the more generous Congregations take a pride in seeing that their Minister's salary is actually his. They meet a l his legitimate expenses and in times of illness act as model employers beyond what might legally be expected of them. Others leave their Minister to provide supplies, travel the country, pay postal expenses, entertain, and meet every expense of his office, while they expect him to consult them before spending the smallest sum out of what is probably morally and legally his own. In some congregations stipend, sustentation and e.ery other source of income is taken into the general funds and promises made on Calls are completely lost sight of. Ministers themselves will not mention such matters. Congregations apparently never think of them. Where a Church can do no better none will complain, but surely those who preside over the business of a Church should see the unfairness of holding a meeting to decide what to do with surplus funds while their Minister, who may have helped to provide them, has enjoyed a stipend less than that of the local curate for years. This has happened more than once.

* * *

The supply of good Ministers is vital to any denomination. The treatment of those Ministers is a factor in the supply. Many things in that treatment are beyond our control, but many things such as those indicated are well within it, and only require a little thought on the part of our people to set them right. Our Presbyteries exist to give advice and keep a watchful eye, and if they were to devote some consideration to this question they would only be acting in line with the action of other denominations as efficient as our own.

* * *

The 319th meeting of the Ministers' Conference was held on Monday, May 2nd, 1938, at the Manse, Templepatrick, Co. Antrim. The Rev. A. G. Peaston, was the host. An interesting discussion arose on new books, psycho-therapy and modern surgery, and the desirability of having a conference which would include ministers and medical men. A search was made for the grave of William Orr, who was hanged at Carrickfergus, for taking part in the Irish Rebellion of 1789, and who was buried at Templepatrick. The search was not successful. Miss Peaston in the absence of Mrs. Peaston, made an excellent

hostess. The day was beautiful, and a most happy afternoon was spent.

* * *

We congratulate the Rev. Dr. A. L. Agnew on his able and lucid explanation of "Non-Subscribing Presbyterianism," which appeared in the public press.

* * *

Half-yearly subscriptions for the Magazine, now due, and should be forwarded to the Treasurer, the Rev. A. Davison, Dromore.

* * *

PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. W. Eakin, 103 Greenore Street, Belfast.

* * *

July, 1938, number published on June 25th. Copy sent in before June 18th will be received by Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

THE DIVINE WISDOM.

Acts x, 38. "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost, and with power; who w nt about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of the things which he did; whom they slew, and hanged on a tree."

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

Our heartiest congratulations go out to Mr. Norman R. Woolley on his appointment as assistant conductor to the City of Belfast Male Voice Choir of which Mr. Fred Burrows, A.R.C.O., A.T.C.L., is conductor. Mr. Woolley is organist and choirmaster of our Church in York St. We wish him every success in his new capacity.

* * *

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian can be obtained at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

SYNOD MEETINGS.

The Annual Meetings on June 21st and 22nd, 1938, will be in the following order:—

TUESDAY, JUNE 21ST.

2-30 p.m.—The Association of Non-Subscribing Presbyterians and other Free Christians will meet in the First Church, Rosemary St., Belfast.

4-30 p.m.—Remonstrant Synod of Ulster will meet in the Church.

8 p.m —A Public Lecture by the Moderator, the Rev. E. Savell Hicks, M.A., Dublin, in the Central Hall.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22ND.

10-30 a.m. Communion Service will be conducted by the Moderator in the First Church.

11-15 a.m.—Business Meeting of the General Synod in the Church.

7-30—10 p.m.—Conversazione in the Central Hall.

Tickets 1/- each.

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

CONFERENCE

WILL BE HELD IN THE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BANBRIDGE

:: ON ::

SATURDAY, 4TH JUNE, 1938

At THREE o'clock p.m.

SPEAKER—

THE REV. FREDERICK MUNFORD, B.A.

Subject: "Religious Education—Its Aim and Methods."

The Moderator: The Rev. E. SAVELL HICKS, M.A., will preside.

Collection in aid of Conference Funds.
Tea will be served at the charge of Sixpence.

Trains Ex-Belfast (G.N.Rly.) 12-50 p m., 1-45 p.m. Return trains Ex-Banbridge 5-52 p.m , 8-43 p.m. Return Fare, 1/6.

Buses Ex-Belfast 1 p.m., 3 p m. Return Buses, 6-4 p.m., 7-19 p.m. Return Fare, Adults, 3/3. Children (under 14 years of age) 1 8.

Numbers attending from each Congregation should be communicated to the Rev. P. Godding, The Manse, Banbridge, not later than Saturday, 28th May, 1938.

JOHN WESLEY IN ANTRIM.

John Wesley preached twice in the historic pulpit at Antrim, and in connection with John Wesley's Bi-centenary of his conversion, the use of the Meeting House was granted to the Methodists in connection with "A Pilgrimage to Antrim, on Saturday, May 21st. Service at 2-30 p.m. Address by Mr. Frank J. Cole: 'John Wesley and Antrim'."

"The News Chronicle," of May 17th, 1938, contained an article on "Wesley v. Marx? by Hugh Redwood, from which the following extracts are taken:—"John Wesley and Karl Marx, says Dr. Bready, are the two most influential characters of all modern history. Wesley versus Marx is the crux of the modern problem; will the Master Evangelist defeat the Master Materialist?

"On May 23rd, Wesley was an extraordinarily equipped man, of deep devotion, iron will, wide scholarship, and a not inconsiderable experience of life; but he was extraordinarily ineffective, too! On May 24th he was an Apostle! He left the room at Aldergate Street, flung his leg across the back of a horse, and rode out to save England."

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

Tickets can be obtained at the Depository and should be secured at earliest possible date in order that reservations may be made on Great Northern Railway for the party, on June 4th, to Banbridge.

The Rev. W. Eakin will be on hand with tickets before the train starts at 1-45 p.m.

MEN'S LEAGUE.

United Service of Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregations

In lieu of the Ulster Hall Service, due in March but crowded out by other meetings, the Rev. E. Savell Hicks, M.A., Dublin, Moderator of the Church, will preach in the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, on June 19th, morning and evening. It is hoped that there will be large congregations.

We do not insert reports of Committee Meetings. "We know of no such custom, neither the churches of God."

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland and Unitarian and Free Christian Men's League.

United Services

WILL BE HELD IN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ROSEMARY STREET, BELFAST

— ON —

SUNDAY, 19TH JUNE

At 11-30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

PREACHER:

REV. E. SAVELL HICKS, M.A., DUBLIN

Moderator of the Church.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

ALL FRIENDS WELCOME.

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Baptism.

Ambrose—On April 17th, 1938, at Antrim, William George, son of James Ambrose and Hannah (Lilburn).

Marriage.

Forrest—Gray.—On April 18th, 1938, at Antrim, William Albert Forrest to Margaret Widderburn Gray.

REPORTS.

Antrim.—In connection with the Silver Jubilee party, mention ought to be made of the service rendered by Mrs. Simpson. Great credit for the success of the party was due to Mrs. Simpson, the organist, who took almost the entire responsibility in making it so successful.

* * *

Ballyhemlin.—The May sermon, which is always from the same text: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth" was preached on Sunday, May 8th. In the church where the Rev. J. Barron first ministered, there was a fee provided for preaching a May sermon, and every year of his ministry he has preached from this text. The collection was on behalf of the English Sustentation Fund.

* * *

Moneyrea.—A very pleasant evening was spent on Saturday, April 16th, when members of the Dramatic Society held a Social in the Old School, at which Mr. Robert Fisher, Ballymaleddy, was the guest of honour, and was presented with a beautiful dressing case as an appreciation of his long and faithful service as a member of the Dramatic Society. Mrs. Davies on making the presentation, expressed the hope that the gift would always remind him of his friends in Moneyrea, who wished him every success in his new sphere of labour. The minister and others also spoke, and Mr. Fisher suitably responded. On Friday evening, April 22nd, a Social was held in the Old School, which had been organised by Mr. William Maxwell and certain gentlemen of the congregation in aid of the Lyttle Memorial School. A large number of friends came together who thoroughly enjoyed the night. Mr. William Maxwell acted as M.C., and for the same good cause, the Dramatic Society gave a very successful performance of the Comedy "The Early Bird" in the Lyttle Memorial School, on Saturday evening, April 30th.

* * *

Newry.—A special re-opening service (after redecoration) was held on Sunday afternoon, May 15th. The Rev. Dr. A. L. Agnew was the preacher. A tea was provided for visitors after the service. In the course of his address, Dr Agnew said: It is not the professing atheists who make this a Godless world. It is the indifferent. Millions to-day go to no church and belong to none. Millions do not know what church they are supposed to belong to. Even in this country, going to church has become an unusual thing. There are more people on the roads and in the fields, or at the sea-shore, or listening to the wireless than in all the churches put together and far and near we hear that the Church is done, that churches are only for old people and modern youth has no use for them. And according to that, churches should be closing instead of opening Ministers and people should be saying to themselves that things will do our day, there is no use wasting time or money on a dying cause.

* * *

Banbridge Women's League.—A very enjoyable social of the Banbridge Branch of the Women's League was held at its monthly meeting when the members presented their President, Mrs. Godding, with a standard electric lamp as a token of their affectionate esteem on the occasion of her silver wedding.

* * *

Cairncastle.—The neighbourliness of neighbours—On Easter Monday evening a concert organised by "The Broadford Ladies' Evening Guild," an auxiliary of the Church of Ireland, was held in the N.S. Presbyterian Hall, given free of charge for the occasion. The large audience included Catholic and Protestant, and a first-class programme was rendered by unpaid artists from Larne. The Rev. Thomas Munn presided, and the rector of Cairncastle voiced the thanks of those present for the splendid entertainment; while the whole of the proceeds were handed over to the Rev. John McCleery in aid of the renovation of the old Presbyterian Meeting house at Raloo.

* * *

Glenarm.—In the no longer uncertain glory of an April day the Presbytery of Templepatrick met on Wednesday, 27th April, to instal the Rev. Edgar Lockett, formerly of the First Presbyterian Church, Holywood, as minister of the old Presbyterian congregation. The Rev. A. G. Peaston, of Templepatrick,

took the first part of the service—hymn, prayer, lesson, hymn, sermon, hymn—! the Rev. W. G. Marsden, of Ballycarry, expounded Presbyterian Church Order; the Rev. F. Holt, of Ballymoney, put the questions; the Rev. J. M. Cleery, of Raloo, offered the Installation Prayer; and the Rev. E. Savell Hicks, of Dublin, Moderator of the Synod of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, gave the charge to the minister and the congregation. The Rev. E. Lockett took the last part of the service. After the service there was tea in the schoolroom. The Rev. E. Savell Hicks took the chair and stuck to it till he had to begin his long journey back to Dublin, when the Rev. A. L. Agnew, D.D., succeeded him. The following was the toast list:—(1) the King; (2) the Governor of Northern Ireland; (3) the new minister and his wife, to which the Rev. E. Lockett responded;; (4) the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland; (5) Ministers of other denominations, proposed by the Rev. J. Mc Cleery; (6) the Presbytery of Templepatrick, proposed by the Rev. J. Begg, of Larne; (7) the congregation of Glenarm. Mr. William Robinson, the secretary, acknowledged this toast; (8) ladies and stewards, proposed by the Rev. A. G. Peaston. Mr. F. A. Robinson, the treasurer of the Holywood congregation expressed its regret at Mr. Lockett's translation. There were apologies from the Rev. J. Barron, of Ballyhemlin, the Rev. J. J .A. Kelly, of Dunmurry, but at present in South Africa, the Rev. Percival Lee, a former minister, the Rev. W. H. T. Tilson, and from Mr. N. Kirkham, who had been in charge of the services during the interministerium. The Rev. T. P. Waring, B.A., rector of Tirmacreevan, also wrote expressing regret. The Rev. George Jackson, B.A., of Glenarm Presbyterian (G.A.) congregation, had hoped but was unable to be present. Among the visitors were the Rev. J. G. Davies, of Comber, the Rev. W. Eakin, the Rev. F. Munford, of Mountpottinger, and the Rev. W. Howard Payne, of All Soul's Church, Belfast. The company spent a pleasant and edifying three hours, surrounded by the hills "glowing in green, exulting in gold," in Swinburnian phrase, and within sound of what Aeschylus calls the "Kumaton Anerithm n Gelasma" "the innumerable laughter of the sea."

* * *

Downpatrick.—Under the auspices of Downpatrick Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church a large congregational reunion took place in the Assembly Hall on Wednesday evening. A lavish tea was enjoyed. As chairman, the recently ordained minister of the congregation, Rev. H. Hall, welcomed friends from other churches. Mrs. Hall distributed Sunday-School prizes:—Betty Henry, Meta Hutton, Margaret Ferris, May Ferris, Olive Dick, Florence Lowry, Margaret White, Violet Hayes, Mabel Corry, Mollie Patterson, Jeannie Patterson, Tom Hutton, Robert Lowry, Sam Lowry, Tom McMullan, Leslie McMullan, Sydney McMullan, Stanley McMullan, Norman Strain, Neville Quinn, Fergie Hayes, Robert Law, Malcolm Robison. Special awards for church attendance, Tom and Meta Hutton, presented by Rev. R. Philipson, M.A. Opening with a pianoforte solo by Miss Hutton, a richly varied programme, in which, besides the choir, young people figured prominently, was gone through. Amongst the youthful artistes were Beth Briggs and Eleanor and Joseph Fleming. Mr. S. Waterman was an acceptable soloist. Outstanding performances were the ventriloquism of Mr. C. Watson; the recitations, 'Sea Fever, 'The Usual Sort of Way,' and 'The Italian and the Rose,' by Mr. Terence Gardiner; and the sketches by Messrs. Agnew, Kirkwood, and Ellison, brought from Dromore by Mr. A .Ervine. The Chairman conveyed thanks to Miss Marie Henry, L.L.C.M., and Miss M. Bell, for their work, carried on in the absence of a settled minister; also, to Mr. Frank Rea for lemonade to the children.—"Down Recorder."

At Ballyhalbert there is a high hill overlooking the sea, and on the summit there are the remains of an old fortification, known as the Moat. An old man used to put his goat up there, remarking "It has na' much to eat; but, it has a splendid view!"

BANBRIDGE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Historical Notes.

This Church is a daughter of Magherally Presbyterian Church. Circum 1700 its Seapatrick, or Banbridge, members held occasional services here with the Magherally minister officiating. Dr. Reid's Church History dates the Magherally Meeting House, in Townland of Drumneth, in the reign of James I.

Samuel Young was ordained by the Presbytery of Armagh on 16th February, 1704. The Presbytery directed him to divide his official services equally between Magherally and Banbridge. In 1714 the Congregation of Banbridge was established with a separate existence, and in 1718 this Minister left for America Then follow records of petitions pouring into the Synod appealing from a decision of the Presbytery of Armagh "which they believe is greatly injurious to them and beg redress from this Synod." This decision probably was getting up Seapatrick as a separate Congregation.

However the first minister of Banbridge was ordained in April, 1720, Archibald McClaine, junr. He appears to have sympathised with the 'new light' section of the Church and left the Armagh Presbytery to join the Presbytery of Killyleagh formed of 'moderate subscribers.' But in 1726 a deputation from Banbridge appealed to the Synod that their minister be disjoined from Killyleagh Presbytery and resume union with that of Armagh "alleging that the peace of their congregation depends thereupon." Mr. McClaine said he was willing to do as the congregation wished. He died in 1740 and was succeeded in 1743 by the Rev. Henry Jackson who was minister for nearly half a century. In this year, 1743, Dromore Presbytery was founded but Banbridge asked to remain with Armagh. Next followed Rev. Nathaniel Shaw, 1790, Moderator in 1802; succeeded by the Rev. James Davis in 1814. The Rev. James Davis, a good Hebrew scholar, sided with the liberal party in the subscription controversy and when Dr. Cooke won (1828) it was Mr. Davis who read the Remonstrance he had been appointed to draw up (October 1828). This historic document gave the name to our Synod. In the Life of Dr. Montgomery the 'Remonstrance' is praised for the "clearness and vigour of its thoughts, the power of its arguments, the simple dignity and scholarly finish of its style and language." Mr. Davis was one of the 17 ministers who separated from the Synod of Ulster in 1830.

In 1844 the old Church was rebuilt on its present site, see front page of this issue. Mr. Davis only lived for three years as Minister in this new building and he was buried in the Old Meeting House Green under the site of his old pulpit (1847).

The next ministers were: —

John Montgomery	1847—1867.
Francis McCammon	1867—1885.
C. H. Osler	1886—1890.
A. B. Hamilton, M.A., LL.B.	1891—1905.
Edgar Lockett	1906—1912.
James Glynne Davies	1913—1919.
Percival Godding	1920—

OBITUARY.

MRS. MARY BRYANS.

Mrs. Bryans, who passed from our midst at nigh the allotted four score years, was held in very high esteem by a wide circle of friends of all creeds and classes in her town of Banbridge. Active almost to the end her whole life had been one of great industry. Since her husband, David Bryans, died over thirty years ago, she lived only for her children whom she reared with most loving devotion leaving them at last well placed and bound to her by undying memories of what a good mother can be. "Professional, business and other activities of the town" as one local Press reported "were represented in the large concourse of mourners on Sunday when the remains were interred in the Old Meeting House Green." The Rev. Percival Godding officiated paying affectionate tribute at the service in the saddened home.

The deepest sympathy of our Congregation is with the son Victor valued member of Committee, and the three daughters, Jeanie, Martha and Annie,

and little Victor at their great loss, knowing also that having had such a mother is a great gain to them.

Our sympathy is also extended to her sisters and brothers and all her relatives. —P.G.

LYONS—MATCHETT.

Our Banbridge Church has just lost two valued members, both of committee —Mr. John Lyons, after a very long illness, and Mr. James Matchett, with tragic suddenness. Mr. John Lyons leaves a widow and two sons. The elder is in the Ulster Bank far away in Westport, Co .Mayo, and happily her other son is with her serving apprenticeship in Banbridge. Our minister also conducted the Masonic rite at the graveside being Chaplain of his Lodge No. 296. Both Committee and Y.P.L. sent wreaths.

Mr. James Matchett, active to the last minute, died in his home of sudden heart failure. He leaves a widow, five sons and four daughters, all at home or nearby. All are devoted to their church; none could be better attenders, a fact pointed to by the minister at the service in the Church. Here again the Committee and Y.P.L. sent wreaths.

Our very deepest sympathies are with these sorrowing families.

ANTRIM SILVER JUBILEE.

Ministry of Rev. C. V. Crook.

On Wednesday, April 20th, a very happy evening was spent in the British Legion Hall, Antrim, when about 80 guests met to celebrate the above event. After all had partaken of tea, the chair was occupied by the Rev. A. L. Agnew, D.D., who carried out this onorous task with his usual bon-homie. Little Miss Marti Simpson was then called upon to present Mrs. Crook with a silver salver as a memento of the occasion, which she did very gracefully. Mr. James Stevenson (whose family connections with the church are of very long standing) then presented the Rev. G. V. Crook with an illuminated address bearing the sentiments of the donors, together with a "well lined" wallet. Mr. Stevenson's remarks anent the esteem and affection felt for the Rev. G. V. Crook by all, was very ably expressed. Dr. Agnew then requested the various clergymen and gentlemen of thi town who were present to say a few words, and they all responded in a very appreciative manner respecting Mr. Crook's friendship towards them at all times. The Rev G. V. Crook then responded with his usual apt sentiments, and by the request of Mrs. Crook, he replied for her.

The ministers present were—The Very Rev. Dean Collis, B.D.; Rev. Priestly McVitty, Rev. Wm. Mitchell, B.A., B.D.; Rev. M. Majury, B.A., B.D., and Rev. A. G. Peaston.

After the more serious part of the function was gone through, the guests were entertained to a musical programme which reflected great credit on the artistes, especially to the young ladies (trained by Mrs. Collis) who performed in a most natural manner a sketch entitled "The Bog Road," and it was much regretted that time did not permit of their presenting another sketch which they had prepared. A lengthy programme was crushed into a few hours. Dr. Agnew moved the closure, and the gathering broke up after singing the National Anthem.

CHURCH SERVICE.

A special service in connection with the silver jubilee of the ministry of the Rev. George V. Crook in the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, Antrim, was held in that Church on Sunday, April 24th.

Rev. M. Majury opened the service with hymn and prayer, Rev. W. Mitchell read the first lesson, and Rev. P. McVitty read the second lesson.

Rev. George V. Crook took as his text 2 Kings 10, 15: "Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart? If it be, give me thine hand. And he gave him his hand." The sermon opened with a fine description of Rev. John Howe's ministry in the old dissenting meeting-house in Antrim in 1671. Then followed how Rev. John Wesley had also found that pulpit open to his evangel—"O for a trumpet voice on all the world to call, to bid their hearts rejoice in Him Who died for all." Both the Calvinism of the sublimest Puritan and the Arminianism

of the greatest evangelist had asked the question: Is thine heart right? In 1703 Rev. John Abernethy, at the age of 23 was called to the Antrim Presbyterian pulpit. He rose to be the ablest Presbyterian minister in the Synod of Ulster, and preached a sermon in 1719 on "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind" that gave rise to a long controversy in the Synod, and became the birth of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The central note of that sermon: "Let every man enjoy the freedom of following the light of his conscience, and no Christians carry their zeal for agreement so far as to break in upon the essential condition of our title to God's favour, which is acting sincerely according to the inward conviction of our minds" is the foundation stone on which Rev. John Abernethy founded the Non - Subscribing Presbyterian denomination. It is a mistake to suppose that it was a doctrinal difference that arose between the Antrim minister and his Presbyterian brethren. John Abernethy all through his very able ministerial life differed very little in theology from his brethren. But to him the signing of any creed—past, present, or to come—was simply a tombstone raised to mark where men stop thinking. Holding that always, God has yet more light and truth to break forth from His Word. Therefore he became the leader of a Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, and the various congregations in the Synod of Ulser that agreed with him were united in 1725 as the Presbytery of Antrim. But his message was at one with John Howe and John Wesley in asking is their heart right. The beatific vision is promised to the pure in heart, so with John Howe we preach the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are, and, with John Wesley, "from all uncleanliness set me free and make Thy temple worthy Thee, and with John Abernethy, be fully persuaded in thine own mind, "For Love, so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." As Dr. James Martineau wrote when he was over 80 years of age: "I have no faith in a religious future for those who renounce their allegiance to Christ."

"For that Love like death hath all destroyed,
Rendered all distinctions void,
Names and sects and parties fall—
Thou Christ are all in all.
Great Spirit! make and keep us one,
No race, no creed dividing,
Until mankind's long course be run,
In mutual faith confiding.
O, lead us by Thy kindly light,
In unity abiding."

The music was led by Mr. Albert Taylor, L.R.A.M., with an augmented choir. Two solos, "How lovely are Thy dwellings" and "Abide with me," were beautifully rendered by Miss Ervine, and Rev. John Barron closed a unique and impressive service with prayer and the Benediction.

'THE OLD CONGREGATION,' LARNE.

CHILDREN'S FLOWER SERVICE.

Appropriately held on May Day, this year's children's flower service in connection with the Old Presbyterian Congregation of Larne and Kilwaughter was a memorable one. On the previous day the children had brought their gifts of flowers and were themselves responsible for the tasteful decorations of the church.

On Sabbath morning, assembling first in their Sunday school, the scholars walked in ordered files into church, 32 boys and girls sitting in the choir seats and the remainder being accommodated in pews either side of the church below the pulpit. Miss M'Ninch presided at the organ, and with the closing bars of the voluntary the children rose to sing as an introit a beautiful hymn by G. J. Sparham:—

Children of this house of worship,
Gathered here in prayer and praise,
Thank we God for all His goodness,
And this happiest of days.

The children's voices led the praise, and the congregation joined in full accompaniment. The words of the carefully chosen hymns making an irresistible appeal to one's sense of the fitness of things.

A most interesting discourse by the Rev. John Begg was followed by the singing of an anthem by the children's choir, and a solo, entitled "The Lamb," was well and sweetly rendered by Muriel Begg. The lessons were read by Eileen

Begg, and it was an inspiration to listen to one so youthful reading from the Book with such reverence and understanding. The service was brought to a close by the chanting of the Lord's Prayer by the children; who, after the pronouncing of the Benediction, sang in slow measure, their vesper.

In the afternoon the senior scholars met at the church, and took gifts of flowers and fruit to the hospitals, and to the sick and aged.

The Rev. John Begg, before his address, spoke of the hymn notice boards hung in the church that Sunday, and in keeping with the other furnishings of the church—plain, solid, and oak—they were a gift of the children, the hymn boards bearing brass plates with the inscription:—"Presented to this church by the members of the Children's Hour,' May 1, 1938."

Through the winter much was done to encourage a deepening of the interest of the young people in their church. The "Children's Hour" was organised for boys and girls under 14 years, and evenings were arranged for their entertainment, the high tone of which was always carefully guarded. For young men and women a "Young People's League" was founded. Their evenings were of a social nature—well attended and heartily enjoyed. The "Unity Club" was also established, their entertainment being table tennis.

The winter sssion of these various organsations has now come to its close, but their last meetings were of particular interest. The "Young People's League" entertained the members of the 'Unity Club' to a social evening, and the 'Unity Club' invited the members of the "Young People's League" to a table tennis party. It was a happy evening for all present, and an outstandingly happy occasion for Mrs. Begg. The members of the 'Young People's League" and of the "Unity Club" gave to her a very handsome black leather handbag, asking her acceptance of this gift as a token of their appreciation for the work she had done in their midst. Miss A. Moore, hon. secretary of the "Unity Club," made the presentation, voicing kindly sentiments in well-chosen words.

Mrs. Begg, in reply, said that their so-wonderful surprise had bereft her of speech. Anything she had been able to do had been her joy. She could not find words to express her gratitude, but she hoped that by her simple words "Thank you" they would understand all she so deeply felt.

A distribution of prizes was held at the last meeting of the "Children's Hour." "School Praise" (a new edition of the Sunday school hymn book), Bibles, and "Hymns of Worship" (the hymnary used by the Church) being the prizes given for perfect attendance at the meetings of the "Children's Hour," the Sunday school, and church service on the Sabbath. Some children received three prizes for perfect attendance at each. Miss Moore, Barnhill House, distributed these prizes, and was herself given a copy of the volume, "A Golden Treasury of the Bible," containing the autographs of the members of the "Children's Hour" Committee. Further copies of "School Praise" were handed to Mr. Begg for the use of the scholars of the Sunday school by Miss Cooke, hon. treasurer.

The evening seemed to be a succession of prizes and presentations, not the least of which was a presentation made to Mrs. Begg. Miss M'Guicken, hon secretary, on behalf of the members of the "Children's Hour" Committee, in happy phrasing, asked Mrs. Begg's acceptance of a most beautiful brooch of exquisite design as an expression of their regard for her and their appreciation of her efforts on behalf of the children.

Mrs. Begg confessed to feeling overwhelmed by such gracious kindliness as had been extended to her. She said that she thanked them with a very full heart, adding that anything which she had tried to do had only come to such gratifying fruition through the co-operation of the members of the committee. Mrs. Begg recalled having read this advice to an oarsman. "There must be no splash at the beginning of a stroke, and he must bear his full weight at the end." "I leave this thought with you," said Mrs. Begg, "that all these prizes and amazing results are not the great splash from a false start, but rather, that a fine, clean stroke has carried us far, and may we hope that, with God's help, we shall bear our weight at the end."

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